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2 What is claimed is:

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4 1. A method for monitoring objects within an information technological
5 (IT) network having monitored nodes in which monitoring-relevant events occur,
6 comprising:

7 generating event-related messages comprising a message key and a
8 message relation key;

9 comparing the message relation key with the message key of another
10 message;

11 processing the other message depending on the result of the comparison.

12

13 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the message key has attributes which
14 characterise certain characteristics of the related event which are relevant for
15 monitoring purposes.

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17 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the message relation key has
18 attributes, at least one of the attributes being or comprising a wildcard.

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20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of comparing the message
21 relation key and the other message key comprises checking whether the keys
22 match with each other.

23

24 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of processing comprises
25 discarding the other message if its message key is found to match with the
26 message relation key.

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28 6. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one monitoring agent is
29 associated with a monitored node, and wherein the step of generating event-

1 related messages comprising the message key and the message relation key is
2 carried out by the agent.

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4 7. The method of claim 6, wherein a monitoring server receives the
5 messages and carries out the processing step.

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7 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the message key and the message
8 relation key are generated according to key patterns which can be defined on the
9 basis of a set of pattern definition rules, and wherein both the message key
10 pattern and the message relation key pattern are defined on the basis of the same
11 set of pattern definition rules.

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13 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the method is carried out by a
14 computer program, and the message key pattern and the message relation key
15 pattern can be defined by a user via a user interface at a common place of the
16 computer program.

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18 10. A system for monitoring objects within an information technological
19 (IT) network having monitored nodes in which monitoring-relevant events occur
20 and a message processor,

21 wherein agents are associated with the monitored nodes and generate
22 event-related messages comprising a message key and a message relation key;
23 and

24 wherein the message processor compares the message relation key with the
25 message key of another message and processes the other message depending on
26 the result of the comparison.

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28 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the agents generate messages with
29 message keys having attributes which characterise certain characteristics of the

1 related event which are relevant for monitoring purposes.

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3 12. The system of claim 10, wherein the agents generate messages with
4 the message relation key having attributes, at least one of the attributes being or
5 comprising a wildcard.

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7 13. The system of claim 10, wherein the monitoring server compares the
8 message relation key and the other message key by checking whether the keys
9 match with each other.

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11 14. The system of claim 10, wherein the monitoring server processes the
12 other message by discarding it if it has found the other message's message key
13 to match with the message relation key.

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15 15. The system of claim 10, wherein the agent generates the message key
16 and the message relation key according to key patterns which are both defined
17 on the basis of the same set of pattern definition rules.

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19 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the system comprises a monitoring
20 computer program having a user interface, and the message key pattern and the
21 message relation key pattern can be defined by a user via the user interface at a
22 common place of the computer program.

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24 17. A computer program product including program code for execution on a
25 network having monitored nodes in which monitoring-relevant events occur,
26 comprising:

27 said program code for generating event-related messages comprising a
28 message key and a message relation key;

29 comparing the message relation key with the message key of another

1 message;
2 processing the other message depending on the result of the comparison.

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4 18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the message key
5 has attributes which characterise certain characteristics of the related event
6 which are relevant for monitoring purposes.

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8 19. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the message
9 relation key has attributes, at least one of the attributes being or comprising a
10 wildcard.

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12 20. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the step of
13 comparing the message relation key and the other message key comprises
14 checking whether the keys match with each other.

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16 21. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the step of
17 processing comprises discarding the other message if its message key is found to
18 match with the message relation key.

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20 22. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein at least one
21 monitoring agent is associated with a monitored node, and wherein the step of
22 generating event-related messages comprising the message key and the message
23 relation key is carried out by the agent.

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25 23. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein a monitoring
26 server receives the messages and carries out the processing step.

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28 24. A computer program product including program code for execution on a
29 network having monitored nodes in which monitoring-relevant events occur, said

1 program code generates event-related messages comprising a message key and a
2 message relation key for a comparison of the message relation key with the
3 message key of another message,

4 wherein the message key and the message relation key are generated
5 according to key patterns which can be defined on the basis of a set of pattern
6 definition rules, and wherein both the message key pattern and the message
7 relation key pattern are defined on the basis of the same set of pattern definition
8 rules.

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10 25. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the message key
11 pattern and the message relation key pattern can be defined by a user via a user
12 interface at a common place of the computer program.